

and voted to begin floor consideration of bipartisan compromise legislation for our Nation's infrastructure.

Our country would benefit a whole lot from some targeted investment in the kinds of real, tangible projects that fit a commonsense definition of actual infrastructure—roads, bridges, ports, waterways, airports, broadband.

A bipartisan compromise to responsibly finance these kinds of investments is guaranteed to be big and complex. It is guaranteed to be the kind of legislation that no Member on either side of the aisle will think is perfect. But it is an important basic duty of government.

I am glad to see these discussions making progress. I was happy to vote to begin moving the Senate toward what ought to be a robust, bipartisan floor process for legislation of this magnitude.

This kind of focused compromise that our colleagues have been hashing out could not contrast more sharply with the multitrillion-dollar reckless taxing-and-spending spree the Democrats hope to ram through on a party-line vote later this year.

As I have said before, the Democrats' spree is reckless on multiple levels. We are all familiar with the staggering \$3.5 trillion bottom line. We all know it would only amp up the painful inflation that is already hammering middle-class families, in large part because of the last partisan deluge of spending Democrats rammed through just a few months ago.

But just as alarming is the parade of leftwing ideas that comprise this mess: turning temporary pandemic welfare payments with no work requirements into a permanent dole, shoving through big chunks of the Green New Deal, government price-fixing that would leave us with fewer new medicines and new cures.

And then there is an effort to further inflame the Biden administration's border crisis with a far-left amnesty. We have now seen the highest unaccompanied child arrivals on record, the biggest month for immigrant encounters in 21 years. This month, total CBP apprehensions for the calendar year are expected to top a million—a million—for the first time in 15 years, and we still have 5 months to go.

So one might think my friends across the aisle would try to avoid repeating the missteps that created the crisis; that they would be careful to avoid doubling down on the perverse incentives generating so much suffering down at the southern border.

But, apparently, Washington Democrats intend to do the opposite. Their reckless taxing-and-spending spree would include an even bigger green light for this crisis at the worst possible time. Under the Biden administration's unenforceable catch-and-release policy, just 13 percent of the 50,000 individuals who have been released into the United States since March have actually reported to as-

signed ICE checkups. So in a sense, either intentionally or through incompetence, the administration is already practicing a policy that amounts to functional amnesty in many cases. What Democrats want now is to make that explicit and, believe it or not, permanent.

They would effectively like our southern border to be even more open than it is now, even during an ongoing public health emergency that has Federal, State, and local officials contemplating new batches of rules for American citizens. The message to Americans appears to be: Put your guard back up, even if you are vaccinated.

But to a jaw-dropping degree, the message to people arriving at the southern border seems to be: Come on in. Even if you are COVID positive, come on in.

CBP data are reportedly showing a huge uptick in positive COVID tests in the Rio Grande Valley sector. That is just one sector, and that is just among whatever fraction of the individuals are actually being tested. And among individuals in ICE custody, apparently one in three—one in three—are declining to receive a vaccine. Yet it seems the Biden administration doesn't consider a COVID diagnosis any reason to make an exception to its catch-and-release policy. Alarming reports of COVID-positive detainees being turned out into Texas communities even have border-State Democrats sounding the alarm.

I hope President Biden is listening. Maybe Members of his own party will have better luck conveying what the American people have known for months: The situation at our southern border is a crisis. It deserves real attention and real solutions, not a reckless taxing-and-spending spree with amnesty policies that would make things considerably worse.

REMEMBERING BOB DOVE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on a completely different matter, for the second time this week the U.S. Senate family must bid a sad farewell to a member of its alumni society.

Only six different individuals have served as Senate Parliamentarian since the position was formally established back in 1935. It is a unique and remarkable position that seems to require unique and remarkable people.

Bob Dove served two stints as Parliamentarian from the early 1980s to the early 2000s. He passed away yesterday at the age of 82 after a long illness.

I was just a rank-and-file Senator during Bob's stints on the dais, but everyone in the entire Senate knew all about Bob's brilliance and his incredible spirit. Bob Dove knew this body's history and its rules to the tenth decimal place.

He was also a constantly jovial person, as approachable as he was smart. His love for the Senate was tangible. It was palpable, and it was not only a

love for the institution, itself, as an abstraction, it was also a love for the human beings who comprised it.

I understand that back in the day, Bob had a go-to one-liner to help himself and his fellow professionals here on the floor through the tougher days. Here is what he said: "You may love the Senate," he would dryly declare, "but the Senate may not love you back."

But a little gruff sarcasm couldn't conceal Bob's true affection. In fact, his enthusiasm for this place was so contagious that it swept up multiple generations of his family. About a year and a half ago, we said goodbye to Bob's daughter, Laura Dove, herself a long-serving, well-loved and widely respected Senate staff leader as she left the post of Secretary for the Majority.

Even now, two of Bob's grandchildren are spending their summers right here in the Senate, helping out in different positions.

Either Bob Dove's brood just cannot quit this multigenerational addiction to public service or perhaps it is the Senate that cannot quit them.

So our condolences and our prayers go out to Bob's wife Linda, to Laura and her brother and sister, and to Bob's grandchildren and extended family.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

INVESTING IN A NEW VISION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION IN AMERICA ACT—Motion to Proceed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3684, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to H.R. 3684, a bill to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk with will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, late last night, there was a vote on the floor which was historic. I will address the subject matter in a moment. But 17 Republicans joined the Democrats in an amazing commitment to building America's infrastructure. I will speak to the specifics of that in a moment.